1990-91 Annual Meeting was held in June 1990

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CHRONICLE FEB 12 1991

plan to buy Lake Williams Lebanon selectmen ready

By DEAN JACOBOWITZ Chronicle Staff Writer

of the purchase would amount to \$730,500 this time. Part of that expense would be funded with a \$250,000 state grant, bringing the total town cost getting ready to present a \$1.16 million Lake Williams purchase plan to the voters.
First Selectman Richard R. LEBANON — After a year of negotiations, town officials are Bauwens said the town's share

Residents rejected a joint state-town purchase plan for the 247-acre lake three years would give the town control of ago. However, the new plan down to \$479,500.

an 11-acre park area on the shore of the lake.

purchasing the 11 acres on the west side, they're certainly get-ting something for their dollar zens that they weren't getting anything for their dollar," Bau-wens explained today. "With "We really feel we've answered the concerns of the citithis time.

"The only thing we have reservations about now is the economy," he added.

The selectmen will review the purchase plan Friday. Bautheens said he will also meet with state officials to discuss

(Lake, Page 12)

(Continued from Page 1)

A town meeting on the purchase plan likely will be held in April, with a referendum vote coming in May, he said.

spent by the state to repair the dam and build a boat launch. That amount is not included in the \$1.16 million total. \$429,500 of the total cost. An additional \$600,000 will be If residents approve the

Bauwens said the town hopes to open the park area for swimming this summer. A beach area and parking area will be the first priority, he said, but other recreational

uses could come later.

dam and water rights, 66 acres underneath the water, 16 acres on the west side of the lake, $2^{1/2}$ acres on the east side of the Bauwens said the overall lake purchase includes the purchase of several items: the easement while work is being lake, and obtaining a small area of land as a temporary conducted on the dam area.

The dam and water rights are being bought from the Gilman Brothers Co. of Bozrah for \$600,000. The rest of the land, including the 66 acres under the water and the 11-acre park area, is being sold by town resident Harold Liebman for \$560,000.

Lake Williams vote may be soon

By DEAN JACOBOWITZ Chronicle Staff Writer

LEBANON - Plans to purchase Lake Williams and create a town park there may soon be ready for a referendum but officials aren't saying

First Selectman Richard R. Bauwens originally said the referendum would be held in July or early August, but negotiations for some of the land have taken more time.

Now he says he'll never again try to predict when such a referendum will be held.

Bauwens, who explained the latest developments on the

Lake Williams purchase plan to the board of finance Thursday, said state officials do not fully agree with a new appraisal for the proposed park property. As a result, the appraisal company will be asked to qualify its findings.

The park property is owned by town resident Harold Liebman and the 247-acre lake is owned by Gilman Brothers Co.

of Bozrah.

The lake purchase will be a joint venture, with the town paying two-thirds and the state paying the rest. Of the \$640,000 price tag, the town would pay \$426,000. The state would control the lake but the

town would own the park area.

The park property in the deal includes 21/2 acres on the east side of the lake, 66 acres in the water, including several small islands, and 16 acres on the west side.

According to Bauwens, Liebman rejected the state's first offer on his land and made a counter offer of his own. The state then rejected that.

Once negotiations for that land are complete, residents will vote whether to approve the overall lake purchase.

A similar purchase plan was rejected by town residents two years ago, but that one did not include any town-owned park.



HELP SAVE LAKE WILLIAMS - PLEASE READ BELOW

Another referendum is heading our way the first part of May, and this could very well be our best shot yet to std this 14 year stalemate. Those of us who have property around the lake must do whatever possible to see that we get a positive vote.

Everything is on schedule for the May referendum, and all the main players are still in place and ready to put this problem to bed.

However we must not for a minute believe that everything is total bliss because a problem will arise that has haunted us through every attempt. For years the town residents who do not live on the lake feel that the people in the Lake District should contribute more because they have the most to gain from a full lake. As we have seen, no argument can be given to totatly quell this train of thought. Therefore an option has been considered that leaves the burden of contributions to only those who wish to contribute. Every property owner and business around the entire lake will receive a copy of this letter and your decision on what to do can be done in the privacy of

your own living room! This is purely voluntary.

The plan is as follows: The town is planning to build a beach and recreation area on their acquired property. This beach will be for the sole use of all Lebanon residents, and the start up cost for a gravel road and clearing a beach will be approximately \$ 12,500. It has been discussed in length with the Lake Committee about the contribution of funds towards the iditial cost of building the beach. The purpose of this is to demonstrate to the town our sincere desire to solve a problem that helps not only us, but also the whole town. In the past we have looked at possible solutions that would have cost us dollars that were totatly out of the question. This plan has a realistic dollar figure and also stems the talk of us not putting in added money. The best part, however, is that all of us can privately determine what we would like to contribute or not. It is a personal decision that would be known only to the treasurer; your participation is confidential. This show of support may be whats needed to put us over the top. If the referendum is defeated or we decide that we have not come up with a decent amount of contributations, all checks will be immediately returned. We already have been promised checks so we are on our way.

Those who feel that they cannot support this plan with a check can help by talking about the coming referendum and trying to get people out to vote, or by writing to local papers with stories about the lake.

In whatever way you choose, PLEASE HEL₽ !! Read the papers for the date of the Town Meeting in April and please plan to attend.

Make your checks payable to: SAVE LAKE WILLIAMS P.A.C. (political action group). Enclose your address if it is not printed on your check.

Send to: Mrs Valerie DiNardi 11 Bogel Road East Haddam, Conn 06423

Please return by Tuesday April 9 th. In this way we can have an accountable total before the Town Meeting.

> THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT !!!!!! SEE YOU AT THE REFERENDUM !!!

Obituories

Lebanon Dems back lake buy

By DEAN JACOBOWITZ Chronicle Staff Writer

LEBANON — A plan to purchase Lake Williams and create a town park there has received the support of several town groups, one of the latest being the Democratic Town Committee.

Chairman John Cusano said the committee voted to endorse the plan because "it would provide something for all the town and future residents."

Residents will vote at a referendum Thursday whether to buy the dam and 11 acres of lakefront land for a town park. The total cost to Lebanon, after a \$250,000 state grant is applied, would be \$480,000 plus some financing expenses. The state would pay the lion's share of the \$1.16 million total, including an extra \$600,000 to repair the dam and build a boat launch on the 247-acre lake.

Cusano said the state's financial problems might make this the last chance the town has to purchase the lake with the state's help.

At a town meeting to discuss the proposal last week, some residents expressed concern that the man-made lake would revert back to a stream if the current owner of the dam, the Gilman Brothers Co. of Bozrah, is permitted to remove the dam.

First Selectman Richard R. Bauwens said the matter of removing the dam is now in court. A judge is waiting until Lebanon's referendum to decide whether the Gilman Brothers will be ordered to repair the dam or allowed to remove it if the state-town purchase falls through.

Some residents at last week's town meeting opposed the Lake Williams purchase plan, saying the town's tax rate is increasing too much already. The tax rate for fiscal 1992 will increase 24 percent over this year if the latest versions of the town and school budgets are approved at the annual budget meeting May 6.

the Chronicle

Lucy B. Crosbie Co-Publisher

Kevin Crosbie Co-Publisher

George L. Geers Editor

Editorials

Alook at budgets In Lebanon ...

Even the chairman of the budget committee said he was unhappy with it when he presented Lebanon's

daunting budget plan earlier this month.

The \$10.94 million fiscal 1991-92 budget proposal is 6.9 percent more than last year, an increase of about \$710,000 that would raise local taxes 24 percent. Almost everybody in town agrees the proposal is too high, but whether the town or schools are to blame has become a subject of debate.

Part of the money budgeted, a big part of the whopping increase, is for money to buy Lake Williams - if voters agree to it on Thursday, May 2. The investment, both economically and in terms of securing a future for an invaluable natural resource, is a good

The costs of running and maintaining the town have grown as Lebanon changes from a sleepy rural hamlet to a town where many young families have moved to escape the cities and suburbs. Costs attributable to the rapid growth of the community are understandable.

What seems to rile many taxpayers in Lebanon and, for that matter, towns all across the state - is the perception that the schools, and their administrators and teachers, have become greedy about salaries.

In Lebanon, the school workers and the municipal workers have been limited to 5-percent salary increases (more than is being given in the private sector, we hasten to add), but teachers are secure with the 8.25 percent per-year raises granted in rosier

Still, Lebanon's mill rate remains a relatively low 16.7, even if the new budget passes. The town is going through growing pains that are not going to be fatal, whether or not the budget is approved May 6.

<u>opinion</u>

the Chronicle

Lucy B. Crosbie Co-Publisher

Kevin Crosbie Co-Publisher George L. Geers Editor

Editorial

Vote yes on Lake Williams

Buy it!

The saga of Lake Williams in Lebanon has been long and controversial — ever since the state ordered the Gilman Brothers to repair the dam that makes it a lake. The Gilmans refused and let the lake begin to drain. The state disagreed and the matter ended up in court.

Thursday, residents will be asked to support a plan to purchase the lake and establish a park on its shores. Lebanon's share in the \$1.16 million project cost would be about \$480,000. The state will pick up the lion's share of that, including an extra \$600,000 to repair the dam and build a boat launch on the 247-acre lake.

We can understand why some people are critical of the plan. Their concerns stem mainly from today's troubled economy. Is it wise, they ask, to purchase the property when the town and state budgets are so strapped?

We think it is.

Residents of Lebanon should vote yes because they are getting a great deal: the town lands 11 acres of lakefront property for \$330,000, with the remaining \$150,000 going to purchase the dam and water rights to the 247-acre lake.

To reject the proposal doesn't make financial sense. Not to fix the dam means the man-created lake will disappear into a stream — as it is in the process of doing. As the lake disappears and the choice lake-front property turns into not-so-choice-near-a-stream property, tax values will drop.

Yes, there is a recession now, but the day will come when everything rebounds — including the value of

property on Lake Williams.

Lebanon residents have an opportunity on Thursday, May 2, to invest \$480,000 — over the course of four years — to protect the lake and to produce dividends that benefit all in the coming years.

SAVE LAKE WILLIAMS FOR LEBANON'S FUTURE

The Lebanon Democratic Town Committee is very aware of the difficult economic times; however, we support the proposed purchase of the dam, water rights, and land at Lake Williams for the following reasons:

- *** the order to remove the dam has been postponed by the Superior Court of Connecticut until after this referendum. We do not wish to see Lake Williams lost forever, DO YOU ???
- *** if you vote "no", a State of Connecticut grant of \$ 250,000.00 to assist in the purchase will be lost. We feel that it is important to your future to take advantage of this opportunity.
- *** we feel that this purchase will provide enjoyment and recreation, both passive and active, for ourselves, our children, grandchildren, and all generations to come. It will also insure the preservation of the lake ecology and wildlife and prevent the loss of an environmentally significant area in our State.
- *** the order to destroy the dam will likely result in a significant reduction of tax revenues.
- *** available today is a contribution in excess of \$ 12,500.00 from the people who live on and around LAKE WILLIAMS to the Town of Lebanon for the immediate construction of a swimming and parking area for all the town residents.

THE FINANCIAL IMPACT

The example below shows that to purchase the dam, water rights, and 11 acres of land for all town residents, a family with a home market valued at \$ 175,000.00 would have to contribute 17 cents per day for four years.

Market value of your home	\$ 175,000.00
Assessed value at 70%	
Your tax today without lake purchase	\$ 1,653.75
1/2 mil increase per year for four years	\$ 65.25 per year
\$ 65.25 divided by 365 days	\$.17

WE CAN GET IT DONE FOR 17 CENTS A DAY

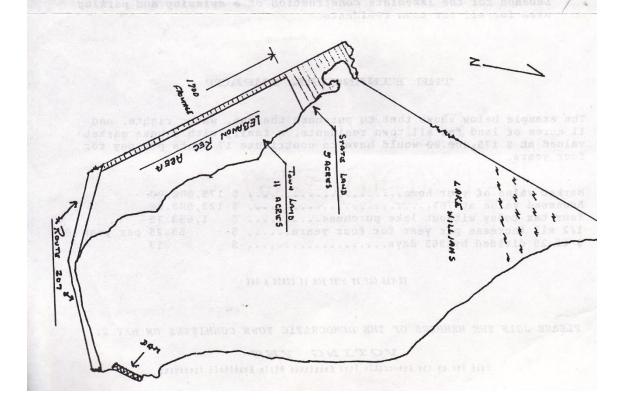
PLEASE JOIN THE MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE ON MAY 2.

VOTING YES

Paid for by the Desocratic Town Committee Dixie Handfield Treasurer

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LEBANON, CT
PERMIT NO. 3

Postal Patron Lebanon, CT 06249



LAKE WILLIAMS REFERENDUM

DAY

DATE

TIME

Thursday

May 2, 1991

Noon to 8:00 p.m.

PLACE

Fire Complex (off Route 87 in Lebanon Center)

Please cast your **YES** vote to save Lake Williams. Call on your relatives and friends who are residents and get them to vote. This has all the signs of being a close contest, so **every** vote counts!!! **Don't Forget** - write the above date, time and place on your calendar or post it on your refrigerator. Remember: this may be our best shot yet at ending this 14 year turmoil!

Over the years a lot of hard work has been put in to try and solve our problem. Many avenues have been taken to gain any advantage possible to try and get a full lake. The recent response for funds to help build a town beach was **great!** As of the writing of this letter, we have surpassed the \$12,500 goal by a small amount, and checks keep coming in. All the monies collected will be donated to the town **solely** for the the development of a town beach and recreation facility. This will be done only after the referendum passes. Meeting the proposed figure, and in fact surpassing it, demonstrates the lake residents desire to help finance a project that benefits the **whole** town. Lets hope that this extra commitment is what's needed to put us over the top.

For those of you who sent out checks made out to "Save Lake Williams PAC", we have done some research and found out that these checks are <u>not</u> tax deductible. If you wish to have your check returned and a new one issued, please call Valerie (Atkins) DiNardi at 203-873-1789, or on weekends, 203-642-4042 to make arrangements. Reissued checks can be made out to "Town of Lebanon - Town Beach" - and these <u>will</u> be tax deductible. Please do this **ASAP** so we can turn over all checks **when** the referendum passes.

Everyone around the lake deserves many thanks for their time, effort, dollars and for weathering many years of frustration and disappointment. Lets hope that the end is finally within reach and soon we can all enjoy a **full** Lake Williams!!

See you May 2nd at the referendum!

Shall the Town of Lebanon enter into an agreement with the State of Connecticut, the Gilman Brothers Co., and Mr. Harold Liebman for the purchase of Lake Williams dam and water rights and the purchase of (11) eleven acres of lake front property on the following conditions:

- (a) that said agreement shall provide that the Town of Lebanon will pay no more than the sum of \$ 400,000.00, representing two thirds of the total purchase price of \$ 600,000.00 on the condition that the State of Connecticut agrees to pay the sum of \$ 200,000.00 representing one third of the purchase price of the aforementioned purchase price of the dam and water rights;
- (b) that this agreement is contingent upon obtaining a grant in the amount of \$ 250,000.00 from the State of Connecticut which is to be used in total by the Town of Lebanon to assist in the purchase of the dam and water rights of Lake Williams;
- (c) that the Town of Lebanon will pay \$ 330,000.00 plus interest for 11 eleven acres of land on the Southwest side of Lake Williams;
- (d) that the total dollar contribution of the Town of Lebanon is not to exceed \$ 480,000.00 plus interest.?

To All Lebanon Residents:

THINK OF THE POSSIBILITIES!!

WHAT: An 11 acre town park and beach for Lebanon residents! 1,500 feet of waterfront on a 247 acre lake!





<u>WHY</u>: Swimming, boating, picnic area, skating, fishing, school biology field trips!



WHERE: Lake Williams, Lebanon, CT. The parcel is an 11 acre field off Route 207 - on the Southwest shore of the lake, adjacent to the future state boat launch!





INCLUDED: Town's share of purchase of dam, water rights, and lake bottom - this also includes the purchase of an 11 acre park exclusively for the use of Lebanon residents!





Referendum coming in May - Your YES vote will be needed to assure a Beach for the town of Lebanon. An asset that Lebanon families will be able to enjoy - forever!



Approximate cost is 1/2 mil per year for only <u>4</u> years. A small price for countless hours of family enjoyment!





Please watch your local papers for more information and pertanent dates for the Town Meeting and Referendum.

Paid for by the "Save Lake Williams" political action committee: Jane D. Sleath Treasurer.

